

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 395 061

UD 030 892

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TITLE Mainstream and Margins: Jews, Blacks, and Other Americans.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-87855-473-4
PUB DATE 83
NOTE 252p.
AVAILABLE FROM Transaction Publishers, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903 (\$32.95).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Viewpoints (Opinion/Position Papers, Essays, etc.) (120)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Blacks; *Ethnicity; *Immigrants; *Jews; Minority Groups; Race; *Racial Relations; Sociology
IDENTIFIERS *Marginality; *Model Minority Groups

ABSTRACT

This collection of 11 essays on race and ethnicity written over 25 years reflects the thoughts and expressions of the author as they developed. They all focus on some aspects of racial and ethnic relations and the problems faced by individuals in three overlapping social categories: (1) European immigrants, especially Jews; (2) non-White minorities, mainly Blacks; and (3) the sociologists who write about both. Essays are not presented in the order in which they were written, but are grouped by subject. Part I, "The Marginality of a Model Minority," focuses on European immigrants, especially Jews, and contains four essays: (1) "The Ghetto and Beyond: Reflections on Jewish Life in America"; (2) "Tensions and Trends: American Jews in the 1980s"; (3) "Country Cousins: Small-Town Jews and Their Neighbors"; and (4) "City Lights: The Children of Small-Town Jews." Part II, "Red, White, Blue- and Black," addresses Black/White relations, and contains four essays: (5) "The Black Experience: Issues and Images"; (6) "Race and Education in New York: The Challenge Moves North"; (7) "Social Physics: The Resurgence of Ethnicity"; and (8) "Blacks and Jews: The Strained Alliance." Part III, "On Ethnic Studies and Other Matters," discusses the sociology of racial and ethnic relations, and contains the final three essays: (9) "On the Subject of Race: Thinking, Writing, and Teaching about Racial and Ethnic Relations"; (10) "Problems in Conveying the Meaning of Ethnicity: The Insider/Outsider Debate"; and (11) "It's Almost 1984: Sociological Perspectives on American Society." Taken together, the essays demonstrate that sociology can be a lively mode of humanistic inquiry. (SLD)

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